

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AGRE-00 EB-07

USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 IGA-02 /131 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS DACCA 2527

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAGR, EAID, BG

SUBJECT : SCHEDULE OF FOODGRAIN SHIPMENTS TO BANGLADESH:
JAPANESE SHIPMENT

REF: (A) DACCA 2438, (B) DACCA 1928

1. REFTEL (A), PARA 2 SHOWS JAPAN SUPPLYING 12, 000 TONS OF RICE TO ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER, 1977. EARLIER WFP AND MISSION ESTIMATES (E.G. REFTEL B) PLACED JAPANESE AID SHIPMENTS AT 20,000 TO 25,000 TONS.

2. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS, AT THE MEETING REPORTED REFTEL (A) AND ON MAY 9 EXPLAINED JAPANESE FOOD AID SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PLEDGE AT 1976 BANGLADESH AID GROUP MEETING. AT THE MAY 1976 MEETING, JAPAN PLEDGED DOLS 8 MILLION IN FOOD AID TO BANGLADESH DURING THE BDG FY 1977 (JULY TO JUNE). LAST YEAR, GIVEN THE HIGH BDG FOOD STOCK LEVELS, JAPAN PROVIDED DOLS. 3 MILLION WORTH OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY
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IN LIEU OF FOOD.

(B) PRESSURES TO PROVIDE PROMPT FOOD AID. IN TOKYO, JAPANESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO MEET THEIR PLEDGE ON SCHEDULE, IN PART TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONTINUING EFFORT, IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, TO PROVIDE A RESPECTABLE FRACTION OF

GNP AS AID, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY TO AVOID CRITICISM (FOR HAVING FAILED TO MEET PLEDGE) AT THE UPCOMING (JULY 7, 8) BANGLADESH AID GROUP MEETING THIS YEAR. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BDG OFFICIALS, THE JAPANESE HAVE OFFERED TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF OF THE REMAINING DOLS 5 MILLION TO PURCHASE RICE FROM BURMA AND THAILAND.

(C) AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO THIS EFFECT IS EXPECTED TO BE AGREED UPON WITHIN TWO WEEKS. THE JAPANESE STRESSED THAT IF THIS FIRST TRANCHE OF 2.5 MILLION (ESTIMATED TO BUY 10,000 TO 12,000 TONS OF RICE) IS RAPIDLY DISBURSED, THE JAPANESE WILL PROMPTLY PROVIDE THE SECOND DOLS. 2.5 MILLION FOR RICE. (SHIPPING COSTS FROM BURMA AND THAILAND MUST BE PAID BY BANGLADESH.) THE FOOD MINISTRY AND OTHER BDG OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED (AS THEY HAVE TO ALL POTENTIAL DONORS) THEIR IMMEDIATE NEED FOR SUCH FOOD AID. ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS MAKE THE PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT SCHEDULING IS LARGELY OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

(D) SHIPPING SCHEDULES/PORT CAPACITY. WE STRESSED OUR CONCERN TO JAPANESE EMBOFF THAT BD PORT CAPACITY WILL BE EXCEEDED BY SHIPMENTS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE FROM JUNE TO AUGUST. WE HAVE INFORMALLY URGED THE JAPANESE TO INSIST, IN ANY DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TO A SECOND DOLS. 2.5 MILLION FOOD AGREEMENT, ON JOINT BDG-JAPANESE EXAMINATION OF THE TIMING OF ARRIVALS, DRAWING ON THE WFP FOOD FORECASTS.

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(E) CONCLUSION. WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHEN THE FIRST TRANCH OF SOME 12,000 TONS OF JAPANESE-AID RICE WILL ARRIVE. FURTHERMORE, WE DON'T KNOW WHEN (OR EVEN IF) A FURTHER 10,000 TO 12,000 TONS MAY ARRIVE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE DESCRIBED ALL THIS AT LENGTH DESPITE THE FACT THE SEPARATE AMOUNTS ARE INSIGNIFICANT, FIRST BECAUSE IT ILLUSTRATES THE KIND OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE FOOD SHIPMENT ARRIVALS; AND SECOND IT PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF THE RAPIDLY CHANGING PICTURE HERE. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW, IT UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR CLOSE MISSION/ WASHINGTON COORDINATION ON THE TIMING OF US FOOD AID SHIPMENTS TO BANGLADESH. MASTERS

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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